

**MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD**  
**For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database**

Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
Montana Historical Society  
PO Box 201202, 1410 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **1500 N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street**

Historic Address (if applicable): **NA**

City/Town: **Billings, MT**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Yellowstone**

Historic Name: **Men's Residence Hall**

Original Owner(s): **Montana State University - Billings**

Current Ownership ☐ Private ☒ Public

Current Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Owner(s): **Montana State University - Billings**

Owner Address: **1500 University Drive  
Billings, MT 59101**

Phone: **800.565-6782**

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **1N** Range: **26E**

**SE ¼ NE ¼ NW ¼** of Section: **32**

Lot(s): **Unknown**

Block(s): **Unknown**

Addition: **Rimrock Rd MSU-B Campus** Year of  
Addition: **Unknown**

USGS Quad Name: **Billings West** Year: **1957 updated  
1975**

Historic Use: **Education building**

Current Use: **Education building**

Construction Date: **1957** ☐ Estimated ☒ Actual

☒ Original Location ☐ Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference [www.nris.mt.gov/topofinder2](http://www.nris.mt.gov/topofinder2)

☐ NAD 27 ☒ NAD 83 (preferred)

Zone: **12** Easting: **692883** Northing: **5074350**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District:

NRHP Eligible: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Date of this document:

Form Prepared by: **Diana J. Painter, PhD**

Address: **3518 N. C Street, Spokane, WA 99205**

Daytime Phone: **(707) 364-0697**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Date: 11/17/2010

Evaluator: Kate Hampton

Comments:

# MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

**X** See Additional Information Page

Architectural Style: **Modern** If Other, specify:

Property Type: **Education building** Specific Property Type: **Residence Hall**

Architect: **Cushing, Terrell & Associates** Architectural Firm/City/State: **Cushing, Terrell & Associates, Billings, MT**

Builder/Contractor: Company/City/State:

Source of Information: **Architectural drawings**

**Location and setting.** Apsaruke Hall was known as the Men's Residence Hall when designed, but now houses the College of Health Professions. It is a three-story, somewhat T-shaped building with the east-west hall predominating, with a flat roof. It is located in the southeast corner of the Montana State University at Billings's campus, close to the intersection of N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, the main arterial entering Billings from the north side, and Poly Drive, a major east-west thoroughfare on the north side of Billings. The building faces south, with the main entry vestibule facing east. The west side is adjacent to a large, four-story parking structure. The north side is close to an embankment; the main campus is above this lower area.

**Materials and construction.** Apsaruke Hall is a steel-frame building with reinforced concrete floors with a brick and light-colored glazed brick finish. The foundation is concrete, and the roof is built-up. Additional details include aluminum-frame doors and windows, and metal signage with free-standing letters displaying the names of the building and the college it houses. It is a Modern building, designed by Cushing, Terrell & Associates in 1956 and constructed in 1957.

**Design and massing.** The main portion of the building consists of the three-story rectangular slab that houses most of the interior rooms, which are arranged around a central corridor. The west end of the building, which is oriented north-south, is one story in height. Because of the slope of the site, the north portion is at grade, and the southerly portion, which houses the main entry, is set above grade. Secondary entries are located at the west and east ends of the building, the west entry occurring between the north and south wings, and the east entry occurring within a recessed area in the southeast corner of the building.

**South façade.** The main entry is within a small vestibule accessed by five concrete steps with a tubular rail. These steps terminate at the concrete sidewalk that parallels the front of the building. The entry door itself consists of one aluminum-frame door with one-over-one lights. To the right of the door is a window of full-height glass with two-over-two-lights. The front of this vestibule, which sits above grade, is glazed with full-height glass set within aluminum frames. The flat roof of the vestibule, which has a tall, plain fascia, extends out over the entry stair. Above and set back from the entry is a four-story, brick-clad tower which anchors the end of the main building slab.

The small south wing, which is west of the entry, sits about 2'-6" above grade. Its entire frontage is glazed with tall windows with narrow, aluminum mullions. The panels below the windows are solid. A short panel below the windows and above the concrete stem wall in this location is finished in vertical glazed brick with the same mottled beige glazing as the glazed brick under the windows on the main body of the building. The moderate eaves on this face of the building are enclosed by the brick-clad walls on the east and west ends, finished with a narrow metal coping.

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The main body of the building consists of eleven window bays of one window each over three stories, separated by wide, brick-clad panels. The window bays consist of a single windows separated by spandrel panels of glazed brick set vertically in a stacked pattern. Each spandrel panel has a small metal louver placed in the center. The windows display one large, slightly vertically-oriented, fixed light with a small operable light below. Extending over this frontage is a moderate eave with a tall, plain fascia. The entry at the east end of the building is within a bay that is set back from the main façade. It is accessed by five concrete steps with a tubular metal rail. The stair leads to a single aluminum-frame door with full-height glass. To the left of the door is a large, fixed, single light with a spandrel panel below. A flat canopy with a tall, plain fascia extends over this stair. The two floors above this entry have bays of two windows each, but otherwise display the same treatments as the other window bays on this façade.

**East façade.** The east façade of the building, on which the setback described earlier is visible, is clad in brick finished with a small metal coping, with the exception of the narrow vertical window bay on the north (right) side. This consists of two, one-over-one-light windows with spandrel panels that light an internal stair.

**North façade.** Most of the north façade of the building is identical in design and materials as the south façade. There are eleven window bays on this façade, as there are on the south façade. There is additionally a tall, brick-clad stack between bays three and four on the west end. West of the window bays is a three-story, brick-clad panel that contains a single, metal-clad door at the ground level, covered by a flat canopy supported by two metal posts. To the west (right) of the door is the north wing of the building. The east façade of this one-story wing is brick-clad but for three ganged, one-over-one-light, aluminum-frame windows with one fixed and one operable light each. Three nearly square windows were previously located on the north façade of this wing; they are now boarded up.

**West façade.** The west façade of the north wing has three ganged, aluminum-frame windows near the center, which consist of a vertically-oriented fixed window with an operable window below. Below these windows is a spandrel panel of glazed brick. Above is a narrow overhang with a flat roof and tall fascia. The entry at this end of the building is slightly recessed and occurs between the north and south wings. It is accessed via a concrete ramp on the left and three concrete steps on the right, but with a tubular metal rail. The entry consists of a double aluminum-frame door, each door having full-height glass with two lights. To the left of this door is a two-light window of the same height; above is a two-light transom. To the right of this entry is a flush metal door that leads to the south wing. The rest of this façade, which is the west façade of the south wing, is clad in brick and finished with a small metal coping. A large plaque with projecting letters that spell "Apsaruke Hall" is located on the south side of the west façade.

**Site and landscape design.** Apsaruke Hall is located on a site that slopes slightly down toward Poly Drive, but is retained on the north side with an embankment that supports the canal that runs through the campus in an east-west direction. An informally planted, wedge-shaped lawn is located in front of the building. Two parking areas are located between the lawn and Poly Drive.

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### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

A large parking area is located east of the building. This extends to an embankment on the east side that retains N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street above. A driveway parallels the building on the north side, leading to a mechanical area on the northwest corner of the building. Behind this driveway is the embankment for the canal. Directly west of the building is the parking structure for the campus. Southeast of the building is a small building that house the Art Department.

**Changes over time.** Apsaruke Hall appears today essentially as designed. Changes to the building have been relatively minimal. The aluminum windows were replaced with aluminum windows of the same design in a 1995 renovation. At the same time changes were made to accommodate Americans with Disability Act requirements. The front entry, previously open, has now been enclosed. Additional changes were made on the interior.



POSTCARD SHOWING THE LIBRARY, CLASSROOMS & FACULTY OFFICES AS AN ADDITON TO MAIN HALL.



CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS ALSO INCLUDED THE DINING ROOM  
(THE PORCHES SAW MANY A FOND EVENING FARWELL)

**Montana State University – Billings in the 1930s**

## MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

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Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**

### HISTORY OF PROPERTY

☒ See Additional Information Page

The Men's Residence Hall was designed in 1956 and constructed in 1957. It is essentially unchanged from its original construction. Aluminum windows were removed and replaced with aluminum windows of the same design in 1995. Changes to accommodate Americans with Disabilities Act requirements were made at the same time. Additionally asbestos was removed and interior renovations made to convert the building from a residence hall to classroom building. Alterations to the building were made by the Billings firm of JGA Architects Engineers Planners.

#### The architects

The architects for Apsaruke Hall were Cushing & Terrell, now known as CTA, from Billings, Montana. Cushing & Terrell was founded in 1938, when partners Ralph Cushing and Everett Terrell joined forces. Ralph Henry Cushing was born in Dillon, Montana on January 16, 1903. He was educated at Montana State College, from which he received a BS in Architecture in 1927. He went on to earn a BS in Architectural Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1932. He worked for others, apprenticing in architecture and engineering, before establishing the firm of Cushing, Terrell and Associates in 1938. Cushing's partner Edwin O. Terrell was born in Billings, Montana on February 11, 1908. He was educated at the University of Washington, where he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture in 1931. His first listed architectural employment was with Cushing, Terrell & Associates.

Cushing, Terrell and Associates had an established reputation in Montana at mid-century, based on extensive work in the areas of education (schools and university buildings) and healthcare (hospitals and related structures).

### INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

☐ See Additional Information Page

Architectural drawings by Cushing, Terrell & Associates. On file, Facilities Services, Montana State University – Billings accessed February 2010.

"Best Colleges 2010," *U.S. News & World Report*, March 2, 2010.

Bowker, R. R., *American Architects Directory* (First edition). Bowker LLC/American Institute of Architects, 1956 (Second edition, 1962; Third edition, 1970).

"CTA Architects Engineers," <http://www.ctagroup.com/about-us/> accessed January 2010.

Dennis, Kevin, "A Management-Conscious Firm Grows from a Remote Montana Base," *AIA Journal*, August 1974, pp. 56-58.

*Montana Architectural Drawings - Montana State University Digital Initiatives*  
<http://arc.lib.montana.edu/architect/index.php> accessed March 2010.

"State of Montana Building Detail Report – MSU – Apsaruke Hall," October 31, 2003. On file, State of Montana accessed February 2010.

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Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

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### HISTORY OF PROPERTY

They also designed numerous government office buildings and other buildings types for state and local government. Additional building types undertaken by the firm were commercial structures and resort developments. When faced with a downturn in the education market in 1966, the firm re-organized and expanded (*Dennis, 1974:57*). CTA was founded as the partnership of an engineer and an architect; it maintains an interdisciplinary practice today. It has sixteen offices throughout Montana and six other western states, and handles a wide variety of projects *types and sizes* ("CTA Architects Engineers," <http://www.ctagroup.com/about-us/>).

Cushing, Terrell and Associates designed a number of the buildings on the Montana State University – Billings's campus. Their office, constructed in 1958, was located across N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street from the campus, south of the Physical Education Building, which they designed for the University in 1960.

Other notable buildings designed by the firm include Reid Hall and Hannon Hall on the Montana State University – Bozeman campus; buildings for the Midland Empire Fairgrounds in Billings; Highland Elementary School and Shrine Auditorium in Billings; the hospital in Red Lodge; the Dude Rancher Lodge in Billings; the Veteran's Hospital in Miles City; Deaconess Hospital in Billings; and the Montana Crippled Children's Association Rehabilitation Center in Missoula; among many others.

#### **Montana State University - Billings**

Montana State University – Billings was founded in 1927 as the Eastern Montana Normal School. Before it became part of the Montana State University System in 1994 it was known as Eastern Montana College. Today it has over 4,000 students in 160 degree programs. The first building on the campus was Old Main, which was constructed from 1924 to 1927. It appears, judging from photographs of the campus taken in the 1920s through 1939, that the early campus buildings, with the exception of Old Main, are no longer extant.

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Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:

NRHP Eligibility: X Yes ☐ No X Individually ☐ Contributing to Historic District ☐ Noncontributing to Historic District

NRHP Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B X C ☐ D

Area of Significance: **ARCHITECTURE** Period of Significance: **1957**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

☐ See Additional Information Page

Apsaruke Hall is significant under Criterion C for its architecture. It is significant as an intact residence hall dating from the mid-century that represents contemporary thinking in modern university building design on a modest level. Modern architectural ideas are exemplified by the building in the following ways. The building form is asymmetrical, with stacked tower forms and a one-story wing providing a visual counterpoint to the repetitive façade of the main, three-story body of the building. At the same time the building form and details express interior functions, from the stair towers (the taller portions) to common rooms (the one-story wings) to dormitory rooms (the three-story body portion). The overall building form is a large, three-dimensional composition that contrasts with the fine grain of the building details, and the decorative features of the building are confined to the color and textures provided by the materials. Materials and details are simple and representative of those popular at the time for university buildings, from the aluminum-frame windows to brick cladding. The building is additionally significant as the work of the well-known Billings firm of Cushing, Terrell and Associates, which practices throughout the western United States today as CTA.

## INTEGRITY

☐ See Additional Information Page

Apsaruke Hall retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The building form, materials, craftsmanship and overall appearance and details are intact. It does not retain integrity of setting, as it is at present located adjacent to a large, four-story parking garage. The presence of parking lots and embankments around the remainder of the building diminishes its appearance in the landscape. Nonetheless, the building retains most of the aspects of integrity and is therefore considered a historic resource.



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

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Description: **West (side) façade, viewed from southwest**



Description: **North side of west façade, viewed from west**



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**



Description: **South (front) façade, viewed from southwest**



Description: **South (front) façade, viewed from southeast**



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**



Description: **South façade of south wing (front entry to right)**



Description: **Main entry (east side of south wing to left)**



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**



Description: **East and north (rear) façade, viewed from northeast**



Description: **East and south(front) façade, viewed from southeast**

**MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

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Description: **Window detail, typical**

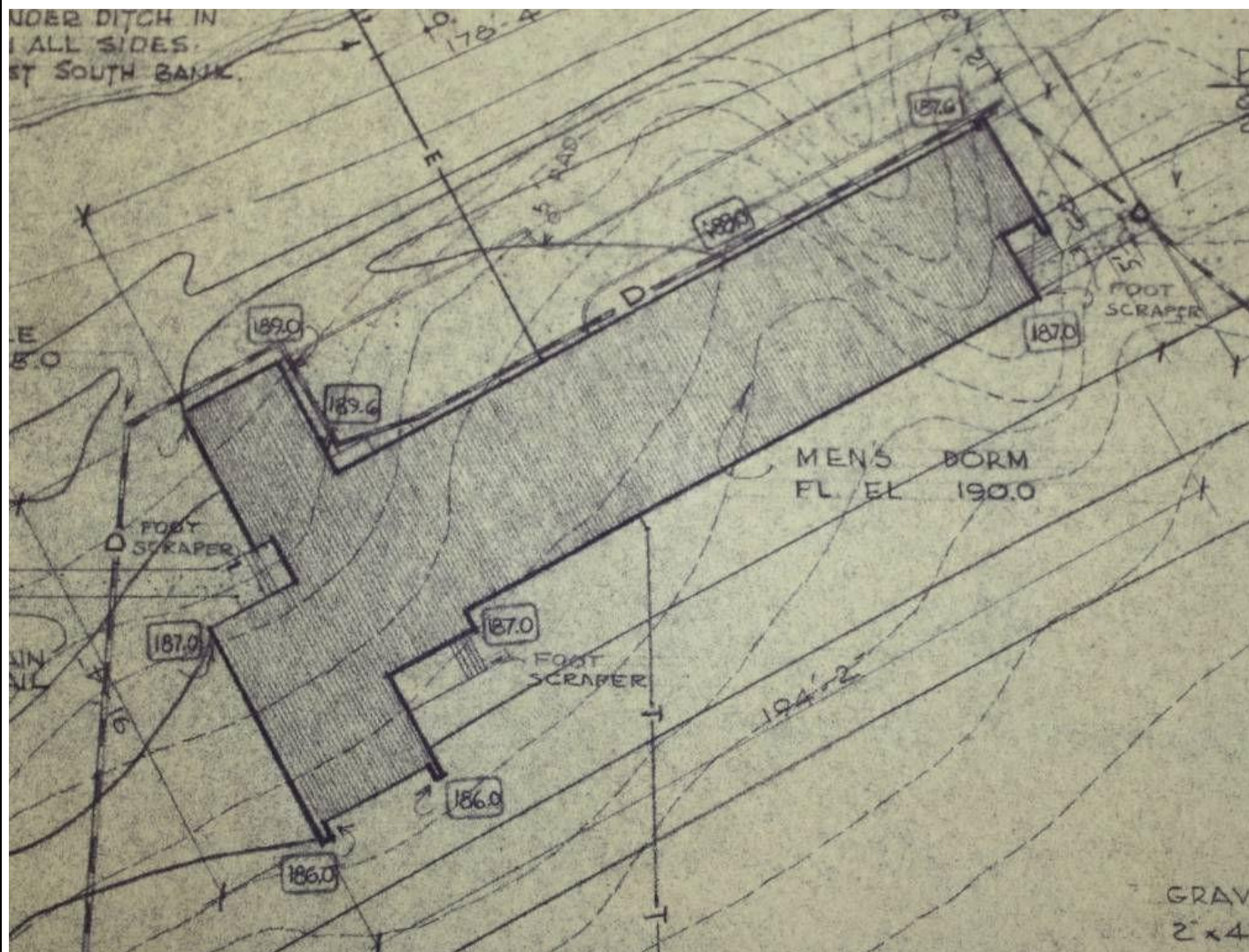


## SITE MAP

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

Site Number: **24 YL 1860**

Description: **Original site plan**





MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Property Name: **Apsaruke Hall**

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